



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 28, 1998

S. 1222

Estuary Habitat Restoration and Partnership Act of 1998

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on July 22, 1998*

SUMMARY

S. 1222 would authorize the appropriation of about \$615 million over the 1999-2003 period for:

- a Collaborative Council, consisting of representatives from multiple federal agencies, that would develop a strategy for restoring estuary habitats and provide financial assistance to nonfederal entities for restoration projects,
- the National Estuary Program,
- the Chesapeake Bay Program,
- identifying significant natural, historical, and other resources in the Chesapeake Bay and linking them with a network of trails and water routes,
- a Pfiesteria research program, and
- conservation and management activities for the Long Island Sound.

Of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that \$12 million is already authorized under current law (for fiscal years 1999 through 2001).

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1222 would result in additional outlays of \$480 million over the 1999-2003 period, assuming the appropriation of the amounts authorized by the bill. The remaining amounts authorized by the bill would be spent after 2003. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Much of the funding authorized by the bill would be for grants for which state and local governments would be eligible.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would result in additional outlays of \$40 million in 1999, \$83 million in 2000, \$114 million in 2001, \$121 million in 2002, and \$122 million in 2003, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. New spending would total \$123 million after 2003. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1222 is shown in the following table. In 1998, about \$34 million was appropriated for the activities that would be authorized by the bill. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority/Authorization Level ^a	34	4	4	4	0	0
Estimated Outlays	34	24	13	6	3	1
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	114	124	119	123	123
Estimated Outlays	0	40	83	114	121	122
Spending Under S. 1222						
Budget Authority/Authorization Level ^a	34	118	128	123	123	123
Estimated Outlays	34	64	96	120	124	123

a. The 1998 level is the amount appropriated for that year. In addition, current law includes the authorization of \$3 million a year for 1999 through 2001 for conservation and management of the Long Island Sound and such sums as necessary over the same period for the Long Island Sound Office. CBO estimates an aggregate authorization level of \$4 million a year for those activities.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted by the beginning of fiscal year 1999 and that the amounts authorized will be appropriated each year. Outlays are estimated based on historical rates of spending for the types of activities that would be authorized.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$4 million annually over the 1999-2003 period to the Army Corps of Engineers for administering the Collaborative Council and an additional \$40 million in 1999, \$50 million in 2000, and \$75 million annually over the 2001-2003 period for restoration projects. No amounts were appropriated for these purposes in 1998. The bill would authorize \$25 million in each of fiscal years 1999 and 2000 to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the National Estuary Program. The 1998 appropriation for that program is \$13 million.

In addition, S. 1222 would authorize the appropriation of \$30 million a year over the 1999-2003 period to EPA for the Chesapeake Bay Program and \$3 million a year over the same period to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for identifying significant natural, historical, and other resources in the Chesapeake Bay and linking them with a network of trails and water routes. In 1998, the Chesapeake Bay Program received an appropriation of \$20 million. The USFWS work would be a new effort; no funds were appropriated for that purpose in 1998.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million in each of fiscal years 1999 and 2000 to EPA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture for establishing a joint research program on *Pfiesteria piscicida* and other aquatic toxins. No amounts were appropriated in 1998 for this purpose.

Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million a year over the 1999-2003 period for projects to conserve and manage the Long Island Sound, and an estimated \$1 million a year over the same period for the Long Island Sound Office. Collectively these activities have existing authorizations estimated at about \$4 million per year through 2001. The 1998 appropriation was about \$1 million.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 1222 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA. Much of the funding authorized by the bill would be for grants for which state and local governments would be eligible. These grants would help pay the costs of studying, restoring, and managing estuaries. Grant recipients would be responsible for paying from 5 percent to 50 percent of the cost of these activities, depending on the activity and the program that is providing the grant funding.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This bill would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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